

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983  
E-mail: sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD14



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 11, 2005**

**CONTACT: Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods)**  
**(517) 373-7888**

## **SEN. JACOBS PUSHES FOR CREDIT SECURITY ACT**

*Bill gives consumers control over their credit info*

**LANSING** – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) is urging colleagues to support legislation that will allow consumers to place a security freeze on their consumer files. Such a freeze would prohibit a credit reporting agency from releasing the consumer's credit report or credit score without authorization.

"Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America," said Jacobs. "To protect themselves, consumers are given unsatisfactory guidelines telling them to watch their credit reports and hope for the best. My credit freeze legislation is a better answer. It gives consumers a tool with which they can protect themselves."

Under Jacobs' Credit Security Act of 2005, a credit reporting agency has 10 business days to place a security freeze on a consumer's file after the consumer makes a written request.

Within 10 business days, the credit reporting agency will provide that consumer with a unique personal identification number (or password) that will allow consumer to provide quick access to the file when they choose to apply for credit.

The freeze remains in effect until the consumer chooses to lift it, unless there is some sort of misrepresentation of fact by the consumer. Once a request to remove the security freeze is made, the credit reporting agency has 3 days to do so. A credit reporting agency may charge a reasonable fee for these services, not to exceed \$10 for imposing a freeze, and not to exceed \$8 for removing a freeze.

"This legislation is long overdue," said Senator Jacobs. "It puts the consumer in the driver's seat when it comes to protecting their own data. Why should someone else have control over your own personal information? The answer is simple: they shouldn't. Under my bill, you decide who gets access to your credit record. That's the way it should be."

###

*State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.*